

REMARKS

The Applicant respectfully requests further examination and consideration in view of the arguments set forth fully below. Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 9, 11-16, 19, 20, 22-25 and 27 were previously pending in this application. Within the Office Action, Claims 1, 2, 7, 9 and 24 have been rejected and Claims 4, 5, 11-16, 19, 20, 22, 23, 25 and 27 have been allowed. By the above amendment, Claims 1, 2, 7, 9 and 24 have been canceled. Accordingly, Claims 4, 5, 11-16, 19, 20, 22, 23, 25 and 27 are currently pending.

Objections To The Claims

Within the Office Action, Claims 1 and 2 have been objected to. By the above amendment, Claims 1 and 2 have been canceled.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C § 101

Within the Office Action, Claims 7 and 9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101. By the above amendment, Claims 7 and 9 have been canceled.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C § 103

Within the Office Action, Claims 1 and 2 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,279,061 to Aoki et al. ("hereinafter Aoki") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,237,049 to Ludtke ("hereinafter Ludtke"). By the above amendment, Claims 1 and 2 have been canceled.

Within the Office Action, Claims 7 and 24 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aoki in view of Ludtke and U.S. Patent No. 6,522,654 to Small ("hereinafter Small"). By the above amendment, Claims 7 and 24 have been canceled.

Within the Office Action, it is indicated that Claims 4, 5, 11-16, 19, 20, 22, 23, 25 and 27 are allowed.

For the reasons given above, Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims are in a condition for allowance, and allowance at an early date would be appreciated. Should the Examiner have any questions or comments, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned at (408) 530-9700 to discuss the same so that any outstanding issues can be expeditiously resolved.

Respectfully submitted,
HAVERSTOCK & OWENS LLP

Dated: April 24, 2006

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 CFR § 1.8(a))

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

HAVERSTOCK & OWENS LLP
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